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SAVE ON... SAVOY STEAK POUND $2.39
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MOUNTAIN DEW OR PEPSI COLA PLUS DEPOSIT 8 16 oz. bots. $1.29

SWIFT PROTEN BLADE CUT CHUCK ROAST BONE IN LB. $1.19

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SLICED BACON VACUUM PACKED

WAFER THIN, REGULAR OR THICK SMITHFIELD BACON POUND $1.49

RICHFOOD ORANGE JUICE 64 oz. cont. $1.19

SAVE ON... CRISP LETTUCE LARGE HEAD 59¢

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TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

VOLUME 89-NUMBER 38 | APPOMATTOX, (VA.)-TIMES-VIRGINIAN-SEPTEMBER 18, 1980 | ONE SECTION-18 PAGES | SINGLE COPY PRICE - 20c

Farmers eligible for disaster relief loans

Farmers in Appomattox and surrounding counties will be eligible for disaster relief loans this year, the result of recent actions by the Small Business Administration and the Farmers Home Administration.

The SBA Disaster Loan Program also offers loans to owners of businesses directly related to farming — such as farm equipment and feed-and-grain companies — which may be adversly affected by farmers' economic loss resulting from the prolonged drought this summer.

According to Collyer Linn, Disaster Branch manager of the SBA office in Richmond, any farmer is eligible for a loan to cover up to 100 percent of losses resulting from crop damage, as verified by the local ASCS agent.

Crops which ASCS does not keep records on, such as apples, can be verified for damage loans through the SBA office in Richmond, Linn adds.

"Where credit is not available from private sources, most farmers would get the loans at five percent interest," according to Linn. The interest rate is higher if credit is available from private sources, he adds.

The average good farmer would get the loan at five percent, however," Linn says. "About 95 percent of the loans made during the drought of 1979 were at the lower rate," he says.

Crop loss, or "physical damage" loans, can be made for up to 100 percent of crop-damage loss, with no maximum loan amount.

Repayment is usually scheduled for a seven-to-ten-year period, but if a farmer is already paying on a loan, the SBA can make the repayment period longer.

"We don't want to interfere with the farmer's ability to secure his loans for normal operating costs. We will work with the local loaning agencies, and if necessary, subordinate our lien to their's so the farmer can go back and get the loan he needs to get into business each year."

Linn adds that one half of each SBA loan is restricted to use for a farmer's 1981 crop, and the other half may be used as the farmer sees fit, for purposes such as reducing payments on a current loan.

Farmers may obtain unsecured loans for amounts up to $5,000, Linn says.

Business which are directly affected by the farmer's plight, such as farm-equipment stores and feed-grain suppliers, are also for loans in the SBA program. The maximum amount allowed for these loans, called "economic injury" loans by the SBA, is $500,000.

The cut-off date for filing for physical damage loans is March 5, 1981, and the cutoff date for filing for economic injury loans is June 5, 1981.

A toll-free phone is being installed for loan applicants, and plans are being made to make loan application forms available in Appomattox. However, for now, interested parties may get further information on the SBA program by calling the Richmond office at (804) 771-2257.

"A farmer does not have to have been turned down for a loan by another agency to be eligible for these SBA loans," Linn stresses. "And these loans cover everything from vegetables to hay and grazing land. Anything that grows."

The Farmers Home Administration loans, with which farmers are more familiar, are also available this year.

Ava D. Marshall, county supervisor of the FmHA, notes that if a farmer can get a loan from the SBA, the FmHA will not make that farmer a loan.

"We will, however, make a loan for the difference between estimated crop damage and any loan which has been secured to cover that damage, but which will not cover the entire amount," Marshall says.

Farmers wishing to apply for FmHA loans should do so at the local office in Appomattox.

Miss Five-County Fair

DANA McGrath of Gladstone, a senior at Appomattox County High School, was the winner of the Miss Five-County Fair beauty pageant held in Farmville last week. The daughter of Renee Booker McGrath and William McGrath, she won over twenty-five contestants from five counties. Dana enjoys dancing, tennis, skiing and plans a career in fashion merchandising.

Depot's history rich: railroad festival coming

By FRANCES H. PAULETTE

With so much thought and energy going into the Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival, a backward glance at the 'Depot' seems in order.

It was in the year of 1852 that the first railroad was built through the county of Appomattox. It was called the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad. The first passenger train went through Appomattox enroute to Roanoke in November of 1852. At that time the engine was fired with wood; the wood was cut, hauled, and stacked along side the tracks. Some time later the railroad was renamed The Virginian and Tennessee Railroad. Today it is the Norfolk and Western Railway System.

In notes belonging to Miss Nola Burkey, a retired elementary school teacher, we find the following, "According to the late Nathaniel Gregory, the first railroad station was just a boxcar. Some time later a station proper was built.

"The Depot", as the station was called, was burned by Grant's army on Saturday, April 8, 1865. It was replaced by another frame building which also burned. The present building was constructed after the last fire.

For a great many years the "Depot" was very likely the most important building in what is now the town of Appomattox. In fact, there were only a few other houses in the area.

In the early nineties, residents of Appomattox County living outside of the village, spoke of going to the "Depot." This, evidently, was a carry-over from the days when the railroad station was the main attraction.

According to Miss Burkey's records, the late Nathaniel Gregory wrote of seeing a stage coach, pulled by horses, taking passengers from the train to the county seat which was then located approximately two miles away.

Although it may be true that little is known about the very first people who lived near the "Depot", we can be sure of one thing; with the coming of the railroad, more and more people began settling nearby.

Several prominent ladies of Appomattox distinctly remember going to the "Depot" on Sunday afternoon to watch the train go by. It was quite the 'in thing' for young ladies of that day to have their picture taken, on the steps of the train, with their special beau, of course!

In 1892, the courthouse at the county seat (then located at the National Historical Park), burned and the decision was made to rebuild the courthouse in the village of Appomattox located by the railroad, and the "Depot" became the center of activity.

On October 11th and 12th, interest will once again center on the "Depot" as the Annual Historic Railroad Festival gets underway.

School enrollment down slightly

Meeting in regular session on Tuesday, September 9, the Appomattox County School Board reviewed an enrollment report for the 1980-81 school session. Total enrollment in all of the Appomattox County Schools as of September 5 was 2695.

While this is a decrease of approximately 15 students compared to the previous school session, it was pointed out that additional students will enroll for the current session resulting in the enrollment going above 2700.

The student attendance policy, reviewed by the Board at the August meeting and again at the September meeting will receive final consideration at the regular meeting in October.

Regular school attendance shall be required of all school students. Students shall be assisted in achieving and maintaining this goal as follows: (1) Each classroom teacher shall provide daily for a classroom environment that gives students a feeling of acceptance, that establishes a clear understanding of requirements and expectations and that provides constructive and appropriate learning experiences.

(2) The administration of each school shall involve the respective school faculty in the development of a plan to assure that effective instruction is provided in each classroom.

(3) Attendance of students shall be monitored regularly and appropriate action shall be taken to prevent problems before they become severe.

(4) The schools shall utilize the services of agencies in the division in promoting regular attendance.

(5) The guidance plan of Appomattox County High School and Appomattox Middle School shall include objectives and strategies to assist students in accepting responsibility for regular school attendance.

Additional goals listed in the policy include the following:

(6) An assessment of the student attendance program shall be conducted by each school at the end of each school session and a report shall be made to the school board.

(7) Local media shall be used to promote regular attendance.

(8) The attendance plan of each school shall provide for the involvement and support of parents in achieving and maintaining regular student attendance.

(9) Teachers shall emphasize the importance of students' daily assignments. Daily grades will account for at least one-third of the six week's grade. Therefore, regular attendance shall be necessary for students to receive passing grades.

(10) Students who skip classes shall be subject to suspension from school. Repeated skipping may result in expulsion from school.

The board approved the appointment of persons to the Central Planning Council and Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented and the General and Subject Advisory Councils for Vocational Education. The names of persons approved to serve on these committees are filed in the school board office.

In other action the board authorized the superintendent to sign an agreement with Lynchburg Community Action Group, Inc. to operate a youth employment and training program during fiscal year 1981. Students who participate in an employment experience program will be in good standing with the school system, will meet the criteria established by the community action program and will be approved by the superintendent.

Hodnett does it again

Ronnie Hodnett of Spout Spring again bested all competitors in the weekly **Times-Virginian** football contest, accurately predicting the outcomes of all games to win last week's contest.

Hodnett also won the first contest of the football season two weeks ago, when he accurately predicted all but two of the games in the contest.

Two contestants, Charlotte Paulette and Rick Caldwell, both of Appomattox, accurately predicted the outcomes of all but one of the games listed on the football contest games. Paulette's tie-breaker score predictions, 17-14, favor of Appomattox in the Raider-William Campbell game, and 35-6, favor of VPI in the Tech East Tennessee State game, were closer than Caldwell's and gave her the second-place spot in the contest. Appomattox tied William Campbell 7-7, and VPI defeated East Tennessee State, 35-7.

A total of 61 amateur "Jimmy-the-Greeks" entered the contest this week. Hodnett will again receive a check for $10 as winner of the contest, and Paulette will receive a check for $5 as runner-up.

Rules and regulations for this week's contest can be found on the contest page inside the **Times-Virginian.**

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

From the quiet of My Den of Martha Street, on yet another warm and dry day in September. As of Monday there are 105 days left in 1980. Enough to accomplish a lot, if you keep busy. History notes. September 14, 1812, Francis Scott Key wrote The Star Spangled Banner. On September 15, 1862, Jackson captured Harper's Ferry, on the seventeenth Battle of Antietam.

Football fans had a ball during the week-end, ACHS had to settle for a tie with William Campbell. University of Va., VPI, VMI and University of Richmond all scored wins. Washington Redskins gave their fans a scare but finally chalked up a win. Nor let us forget good ole Slippery Rock. Slippery Rock 14, Towson State 0. Billy Johnson, Buckingham native, played well at fullback as the U. of N. C. Tar Heels downed Texas Tech in a TV game. Big games on tap every week-end now. This week ACHS needs your support as it takes on Rustburg.

* * *

Had a surprise meeting with Julip, the veteran rabbit who makes my back yard his home base. He was resting in the cool of tall grass, maybe dozing, when I came up. In such circumstances rabbits usually run. But not Julip. We each held our ground, about six feet apart. I spoke up and asked if he was hungry. Or if he was thirsty, things being so dry. No reply and we had a stalemate. Couple of minutes passed and at the same moment each decided to go his way. No panic, just a casual meeting of old friends. I forgot to ask his plans for hunting season.

* * *

One of my favorite columnists and commentators is James Jackson Kilpatrick. In a recent column he used the statement, "five generations after Appomattox." I jotted that down in my note pad, because not only is it nice to see the name of our famous town and county mentioned but because so universally known and respected is the name that it can be used to save a long statement.

* * *

To some "Appomattox" means the end of an era, and I have a book in my library by that title, The End of An Era, by John S. Wise. To others the word means the beginning of a new era. I have books like after Appomattox and another South of Appomattox. The New South began in our county, April 9, 1865. Many writers have chosen to use Appomattox as a turning point not only in history but in society itself. Phillip Van Doren Stern wrote of An End to Valor. Ah yes, both an end and a beginning. It would not carry the same meaning to say five generations after Gettysburg, or Shiloh as to say Appomattox. Valor, courage, heroism, gallantry, destiny, enterprise, fortune adorn countless chapters in the story of America. We glory in every page. We salute every hero. And we are proud to live in Appomattox, a name standing for so much.

* * *

I found a copy of the Student Handbook of Appomattox High School, printed May, 1952. Published by Student Co-Operative Association, Billy Johnson president, Sylvia Burks handbook editor. Pocket size, 56 pages. H. E. Kerr was Principal, J. A. Burke, Superintendent. One note. School colors were blue and white. Nineteen high school and sixteen grade school teachers. There is a two page history of the Appomattox High School, and I hope to come back to that in another column. As for now, thanks for reading and seeya around.

County saddened by tragic death of State Trooper Stephenson

Appomattox was saddened Thursday with news that Robert Lewis Stephenson of Route 2, Appomattox, died as a result of a collision between the motorcycle he was riding and a pickup truck.

The 30-year-old off-duty state trooper was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident at approximately 11:15 a.m. by a medical examiner.

Trooper D. P. Beamon said the two vehicles were headed in opposite directions on Route 719 when the accident occured. The driver of the truck was identified as John William Megginson of Route 1, Appomattox.

Trooper Stephensen, who began work with the State Police in March of 1979, came to Appomattox County in the late fall of 1979. He had been employed with the Suffolk City Police Department before joining the State Police.

Described by co-workers as a man who truly enjoyed his work, Stephenser was once asked if he ever felt bad and his answer was an emphatic 'no', which was evidenced by the fact that he sang almost continually as he worked around the office at headquarters.

Stephensen, who was born in Alabama, the son of Mary Patterson and a stepson of Marshall F. Patterson, was a member of Memorial United Methodist Church and a Vietnam veteran.

He is survived by his wife, Ronda Harris Stephensen and two sons, Randolph Erie Stephensen and Matthew Lewis Stephenson of Appomattox; his mother and stepfather and three sisters, Margaret Lacroy, Rhetta Tarwin and Rosemary Patterson all of Alabama.

DR. S. R. LAWSON, (left) chairman of the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors, receives a check from James Bowan, (right) superintendent of the Buckingham-Appomattox State Forest as forest ranger Carter Taylor looks on. Bowen and Taylor were at the Board of Supervisors meeting Friday to present the $26,590 check to the Board, for Appomattox County's share of revenues generated by timber operations in the forest. Appomattox County's portion of the check was $5,000 more than the amount received last year.

Robert Lewis Stephenson